

(35.)

His Majesties  
DECLARATION

To all His

Loving Subjects,

*June* the Second, 1680.



L O N D O N,

Printed by *John Bill, Thomas Newcomb, and  
Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most  
Excellent Majesty, 1680.

(32)

His Majesties  
DECLARATION  
To all His  
Loving Subjects

Given the Second, 1680.



LONDON

Printed by John Stiles, Printer to the Kings most  
Excellent Majesty, 1680.

(3)

# Charles R.



We cannot but take notice of the great Industry and Malice wherewith some Men of a Seditious and Restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report of a Marriage or Contract of Marriage supposed to be had and made between Us and one Mrs Walters, alias Barlow, now deceased, Mother of the present Duke of Monmouth, aiming thereby to fill the minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question the clear undoubted Right of Our True and Lawful Heirs and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our Self obliged to let Our Loving Subjects see what steps We (out of Our Care of them and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences that so dangerous and malicious a Report may have in future times upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms.

In January last was Twelvemonth, We made a Declaration written with Our own Hand in these Words following;

**T**Here being a false and malicious Report industriously spread abroad by some, who are neither Friends to  
A 2 Me

(4)

Me or the Duke of Monmouth, as if I should have been either Contracted or Married to his Mother; and though I am most confident that this idle Story cannot have any effect in this Age, yet I thought it My Duty in relation to the true Succession of this Crown, and that future Ages may not have any pretence to give Disturbance upon that score, or any other of this nature, to Declare, as I do here Declare in the presence of Almighty God, That I never was Married, nor gave any Contract to any Woman whatsoever, but to My Wife Queen Catherine, to whom I am now Married. In witness whereof I set my Hand at Whitehall the Sixth of January 167<sup>r</sup>.

Charles R.

And this Declaration I make in the presence of

W. Cant.

H. Finch. C.

H. Coventry.

J. Williamson.

To



**T**O strengthen which Declaration,  
 We did in *March* following,  
 ( which was *March* last was Twelve-  
 month ) make a more publick Declarati-  
 on in Our Privy Council, written like-  
 wise with Our own Hand; and having  
 caused a true Transcript thereof to be En-  
 tred in Our Council Books, We Signed  
 it, and caused the Lords of Our Privy  
 Council then attending us in Council, to  
 subscribe the same likewise, and We  
 Ordered the Original to be kept in the  
 Council Chest, where it now remains.  
 The Entry whereof in the Council Book,  
 is in these words following;

**F**OR the avoiding of any Dispute  
 which may happen in time to come  
 concerning the Succession of the Crown  
 I do here declare in the presence of  
 Almighty God, that I never gave nor  
 made any Contract of Marriage, nor  
 was Married to any Woman before  
 the death of my late Majesty King  
 Charles the first.

**B**

**At**

At the Court at WHITE HALL, March the 3<sup>d</sup> 167<sup>8</sup>.

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor Earl of Essex

Lord Treasurer Earl of Bath

Duke of Litchfield Earl of Craven

Marquess of Worcester Earl of Aylesbury

Earl of Ossory Lord Bishop of London

Lord Chamberlain Lord Bishop of Durham

Earl of Sunderland Lord Maynard

Earl of Oxford Mr. Vice-Chamberlain

**H**is Majesty was this day pleased to Command,  
That the Declaration hereafter following be  
entered in the Council Book, It being all Writ-  
ten and signed by His Majesties own Hand, in a Pa-  
per which His Majesty this day delivered at the  
Boord, to be kept in the Council Chest. *Viz.*

**F**Or the avoiding of any Dispute  
which may happen in time to come,  
concerning the Succession of the Crown,  
I do here Declare in the presence of  
Almighty God, That I never gave nor  
made any Contract of Marriage, nor  
was Married to any Woman whatso-  
ever, but to My present Wife Queen  
Catherine now living. Whitehall, the  
Third day of March 167<sup>8</sup>.

Charles R.

His

His Majesty Commanded us who were present  
at the Making and Signing this Declaration, to At-  
test the same;

Finch	E. Essex
Danby	B. Bucke
Lauderdale	Craven
Worcester	Aylesbury
Offory	H. London
Arlington	N. Durham
Sunderland	W. Maynard
Clarendon	G. Carteret.

**I**N April last We found the same Rumour not Onely  
revived again, but also improved with New Ad-  
ditions, To wit, It was given out, That there  
was a Writing yet extant, and lately produced before  
several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a  
Contract at least (for the Report was various) would  
appear, and that there are several Lords and Others  
yet living, who were pretended to have been present  
at the said Marriage. We knew full well that it  
was impossible that any thing of this should be true,  
(there being nothing more groundless and false then  
that there was any such Marriage or Contract between  
Us and the said Mrs Walters, alias Barlow) yet We  
proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Inter-  
rogated in Council, such Lords and other Persons,  
as the common Rumour did surmise to have been  
present at the pretended Marriage, or to know some-  
thing of it, or of the said Writing. And though it  
appeared to all Our Council, upon the hearing of  
the said Lords and other Persons severally Interroga-  
ted, and upon their denying to have been present at  
any such Marriage, or to know any thing of it, or  
of

of any such Writing, That the raising and spreading of such a Report, so incoherent in the several parts of it, was the effect of deep Malice in some few, and of loose and idle Discourse in others; Yet We think it requisite at this time, to make Our Declarations above recited more publick; and to Order the same (as We do hereby with the Advice of Our Privy Council) to be forthwith Printed and Published. And We do again upon this Occasion call Almighty God to Witness, and Declare upon the Faith of a Christian, and the Word of a King, that there was never any Marriage, or Contract of Marriage had or made between Us and the said Mrs Walters, alias Barlow, the Duke of Monmouths Mother, nor between Us and any Woman whatsoever, Our Royal Consort Queen Catherine, that now is, only excepted.

And We do hereby strictly require and command all Our Subjects whatsoever, that they presume not to utter or publish any thing contrary to the tenor of this Our Declaration, at their Peril, and upon pain of being proceeded against according to the utmost Severity and Rigor of the Law.

Given at Our Court, at Whitehall, the second day of June, in the Two and thirtieth Year of Our Reign.

F I N I S